



News



For Immediate Release

November 8, 2005

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CITY OF BELMONT RECEIVES STATEWIDE AWARD

The League of California Cities selected the City of Belmont as a 2005 Helen Putnam Award winner. The 2005 award winners were honored during the League's annual conference at the San Francisco Moscone West Convention Center last month, and will be presenting the award to the City Council at their meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2005.

The city of Belmont received the grand prize in the category of Public Safety for its Belmont Safe Schools. In 1999, the Belmont Safe Schools program was developed between Belmont Police Department and the city's public and private schools to facilitate communication and disaster preparedness planning. All have trained together to prepare the schools for emergency situations. Plans include student evacuation and shelter. Cell phones and radios purchased through funds raised by Belmont's Chamber of Commerce and a City of Belmont grant provide direct links between schools and police. By planning emergency response and teaching skills, Belmont school personnel, students and parents have gained confidence without fear in their ability to achieve security and safety for the children.

The Helen Putnam Award for Excellence program recognizes outstanding cities that deliver the highest quality and level of service in the most effective manner possible.

The award is given annually in 10 categories of: effective advocacy, intergovernmental relations and regional cooperation; housing programs & innovations; enhancing public trust, ethics & community involvement; community services & economic development; planning & environmental quality; internal administration; public safety; public works, infrastructure & transportation; Ruth Vreeland award for engaging youth in city government and League partners award for excellence. Of the 146 nominations submitted in 2005, 27 cities were honored with awards.

Established in 1898, the League of California Cities is a member organization that represents California's incorporated cities. The League strives to protect the local authority and autonomy of city government and help California's cities effectively serve their residents. In addition to advocating on cities' behalf at the state capitol, the League provides its members with professional development programs and information resources, conducts educational conferences and research, and publishes *Western City* magazine.

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